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DEPARTMENT PASS TO USTR - D. VETTER
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR FAS - ELIZABETH JONES

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: <u>EAGR</u> <u>ETRD</u> <u>ECON</u> <u>EU</u> <u>IT</u>

SUBJECT: ITALY TO ABSTAIN IN EU VOTE ON STACKED BIOTECH

CORN VARIETIES

REF: A. STATE 74307 <u>¶</u>B. ROME 904

(U) On June 4, Minister Counselor for Agricultural Affairs delivered Ref A points on EU approval for import of three biotech corn varieties to Dr. Romano Marabelli, Ministry of Health Director General for Animal and Human Health.

Marabelli was not able to give a definitive GOI position on the introduction of stacked biotech corn into the EU, but indicated he believed the GOI representative at the EU Standing Committee would abstain. As reported Ref B, the GOI abstained during the Standing Committee's April vote on the introduction of biotech sugar beets into the EU market. Spogli